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MARCH, 1950

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SPRING DANCE TO FEATURE BIG PRIZES

WANT A 3-DAY RESERVATION AT PALM SPRINGS?

VOL. 10, No. 3

March, 1950

The Trail Blazer

published monthly by the
METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Oakland, California

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M. H. A. OFFICERS — 1950

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 6th
Time 8:00 P. M.

Place: Theatre of Sun Electric Corp.,
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That's the big door prize on Saturday night, March 25—accommodations for three days at the Palm Springs Convention! And that's not all. Bud Vogel and Deane Burton, Activities Chairmen, report their committee buzzing like a beehive—

At press time, Joe Merritt announced these prizes, with more to come:

Silver Belt Buckle — Skyline Saddle Shop
\$20 Pair of Spurs — Sun Electric Corp.
Horse-and-Clock — La Fiesta Catering
Set of Fog Lights — Melrose Auto Co.
Horse Portrait, Trophy — Skyline Ranch
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Two Steak Dinners — Skyline Kitchen
Automobile Accessory —

Roger Farrar and Woody Cottle

Publicity stunts were cooking, with Mayor Cliff Rishell inviting some horses to City Hall for a High Alfalfa Tea. Dutch Cummings was dealing out tickets in all directions. Mel Coe and Roger Farrar had arranged for a few good diversions between dances.

Deane Burton had Stan Johnson's Band doing deep breathing, so they'll be in fine fettle for the big night.

The Juniors are invited to come in full force. They'll have their own soft drink bar, and plenty of room for fun.

Curry old Dobbin, let the neighbors milk the cows, bring the kids and come galloping! Remember — Cooks' Hall, 1604 Webster St., 8:30 p. m. to 1:00 a. m., March 25.

BRING YOUR OWN GANG!

Many riding groups are coming in a body. Many horsemen are bringing non-member friends. All are welcome, and every prize worth having! Wear horse clothes, street clothes,—whatever you like. Get tickets from the committee, your stable or your club.

A dollar a ticket—what a passport to a memorable Saturday night!

OVERNIGHT RIDE PROPOSED

A four-hour ride over rolling hills, with swimming, softball, horseshoe games, a barbecue dinner and dancing to follow—sound good? Tentative date, Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30. Plans include staying overnight, with a big breakfast and games. Call Bud Vogel (GL. 1-2458) or any of the Activities Committee for details and reservations.



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NEW PRINTER FOR BLAZER

Here it is—your second issue of TRAIL BLAZER by its new printer, MHA member Jack Jaques, of West Coast Printing Co. While Jack makes few claims for himself as a horseman, he has a good hand on a Linotype.

We'll sorely miss the guiding hand of CSHA President Fred Anderson, who could probably close his eyes and write the magazine himself, as well as produce it.

For Fred's good judgment on many a problem, TRAIL BLAZER can be grateful. For his untiring interest in horses and horsemanship, all Californians are learning to be grateful, as he makes his presidential way from one regional, state and legislative meeting to another, preparing for this Fall's big Convention at Palm Springs.

CLIFF BARBERA, PHOTOGRAPHER

Clifford A. Barbera has been named Official Photographer for the TRAIL BLAZER. Cliff is a partner and Assistant Manager in Colbourn Studio.

All in the same breath, let us here express TRAIL BLAZER'S thanks to Charles A. Logue of Concord, for his generous help as Official Photographer all through 1948 and 1949.

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DIRECTORS' MEETING NOTES

Mrs. Mabel Smith, Treasurer, was introduced to directors and committee members at their meeting on February second. (Mrs. Smith's new ranch home and stable is nearing completion at 5047 Dublin Avenue. She asks that riders come in through the big gate often, to say "hello".)

Mel Coe reported to the Directors that the Footprinters have offered to spend a day working on the trails, a suggestion that was heartily accepted.

Activities Chairman Bud Vogel presented George Walling's idea: an MHA talent show, to be held in the Fall.

Junior Chairman Kay Walling asked the Board's reaction to accepting a sponsor for the Drill Team, particularly to secure transportation to shows and parades. The question was referred to a committee.

Public Relations Chairman Jim Myers was authorized to investigate the problem of where to hold the Horse Show.

APPOINTMENTS

Fred L. Bemis has been named to represent MHA at state and regional meetings.

Clarence A. Simons has been appointed chairman of the Convention Committee.

REPORTERS FULL OF IDEAS

Elsa Himmelman, Vianne Schumacher, Peg Talstrom, Phebe Brown and Janet Phillips were among enthusiastic reporters who met at the home of Mary Gale last month. There were delicious refreshments by Mrs. L. I. Gale. And there were some excellent suggestions for the magazine:

(1) Give more news of people who have their own stables and are not associated with riding groups. (If anyone has such news, please call Bea McKechnie at KEl-log 3-6463.)

(2) Run informative articles on horses, their types, care, equipment, handling, etc. (Janet Phillips has promised one on Trail Courtesy.)

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HORSEMEN SCHEDULE DANCES, SHOWS, FUN

Lari-ette Dance, Horse Show

Begorra, it's going to be SOMETHING, the St. Patrick's Dance on Friday night, March 17, at the Big Bear Tavern on Redwood Road. Deane Burton took time off from her activities as MHA Director to get Stan Johnson's Band. Admission \$1.00.

(These gals are working hard to raise money to send their group to Palm Springs, and MHA is proud of them. But you needn't go to their dance as a kindly gesture. Go because they're grand people and you'll have a darned good time.)

Easter Sunday brings the Lari-ettes' (Palm-Springs-or-Bust) First Annual Horse Show at Skyline Ranch, Redwood Rd. and Skyline Blvd. Admission is free. Entry blanks list 10 classes, English and western, for juniors and adults, with ribbons and trophies in all classes, and a championship trophy to the horse with highest number of points in the show. Get entry blanks from the committee: Deane Burton, Mgr.; Janet Hansen, Sec.; Elsa Himmelman, Myrtle Cowell, Ruby Welch, Geneva Menicucci or Margaret Rukavina.

Castro Valley Dance, March 11

Door prizes every hour are promised by the Castro Valley Horsemen's Ass'n. for their Fourth Annual Dance, Friday, March 10, at The Round-Up on Redwood Road. Tickets are \$1.00, and all horsemen are invited, according to Mrs. Helen Rochi, who heads the entertainment committee. (Adults only.)

Footprinters' Night, March 11

On a Reporter's Blank that said at the top, "Be sure to check on CORRECT SPELLING," this is what appeared:

Come March 11, 1950, the Mounted Unit of the I. F. A. Chapter No. 7 is giving its annual Western Nite—Yippee! Yo' all may be the lucky one to win the \$125 Bronze Statue or the 'lectric 'larm clock worth 35 bucks (dollars to you forners.)

Of corse thar'll be hams an' bacon galore. Free chow and free to get yo'self in thar. We'll have many games, entertainment, country store, and some terrific prizes given away absolutely free—an' to top all this hyar off, thar'll be a prize for the best drest Western couple. (Cowboys please leave yore shootin' irons home with the kids.)

OAKLAND AUDITORIUM, 3rd Floor BALLROOM, MARCH 11. Doors open at 6:30. SEE YO' ALL.

STATE MEETING BRINGS CONVENTION NEWS

Some two hundred representatives from almost every part of the state attended the Annual Meeting of the California State Horsemen's Association in San Francisco on February 11. President Heber Brown represented our organization in the absence of Fred Bemis, MHA delegate.

Discussion centered about the convention in Palm Springs next Fall, and brought up several points vital to the MHA. While a detailed report appears in the State magazine, "The Horseman," for March, a summary follows:

CONVENTION CLASSES

Breeding Classes, Quarter Racing: Ray Stone, reporting action from the Executive Committee, proposed that breeding classes and quarter horse racing be eliminated from the 1950 show at Palm Springs, because of lack of stalls to care for breeding horses, and because there is no track. The group present were not willing to accept this recommendation without discussion in their own clubs, and further inquiry into ways to include these two events.

Cutting Horses: To be a Blue Ribbon event—no regional eliminations.

Gaited Horses: These classes to be eliminated. Because other shows offering money prizes are scheduled at about the same time, it has been the experience of the Executive Committee that owners prefer not to exhibit at the Convention.

GYMKHANA EVENTS

Stake Race: A new event—a race around four stakes placed in the position of a square.

Ring Spearing: Same rules as at the 1949 Convention, with one practice run for each participant.

DRILL TEAMS

Slight reapportionment of percentages given for "briskness" and "variety in maneuvers;" 10% now given for "spacing." (Drill teams should write Joe Massone, Region 5 Vice-President, Rte. 1, Box 310, Walnut Creek, for Drill Team judging.)

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Recognition to be given first, second and third boy and girl, rather than first place only. One non-interested registered observer to sit in on all written tests. Contestants to know something of horseshoeing. No stallions to be used in horsemanship division. (See "The Horseman" for details.)

ACCOMMODATIONS LIMITED

Only about 200 stalls will be available at Palm Springs, but proper arrangements will be made to tie horses outside—the weather being balmy and there being no danger of rain. Dude ranches nearby will be available to groups who arrange to occupy the living quarters and stable their horses in the ranch stalls. Groups desiring these accommodations may write Bill Grant, Box T, Palm Springs.

STATE TRAILS

Other Annual Meeting business included a plea from CSHA's Past President, Ed Zwierlein, for funds so that we may receive some consideration from the state legislators. At the present time, Ed stated, they are very much inclined to deny our request for funds to continue the State Trail.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- Mar. 10—Castro Valley Horsemen's Dance, The Round-Up.
- Mar. 11—Footprinters Western Night, Oakland Auditorium 3rd Floor Ballroom.
- Mar. 17—Lari-ettes' Dance, The Big Bear.
- Mar. 25—MHA SPRING DANCE, Cooks' Hall, \$1.00.
- Mar. 26—Bit & Spur Horse Show, Cressmount.
- Apr. 8—MHA JRS. "COUNTY FAIR STOMP," Norway Hall. \$1.00.
- Apr. 9—Lari-ettes' Horse Show, 1:00 p. m., Skyline Ranch.
- Apr. 29—MHA OVERNIGHT RIDE.
- May 14—3rd ANNUAL GEORGE DANIELS TRAIL RIDE and FIELD DAY.
- June 24, 25—MHA HORSE SHOW.

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New Members, Renewals Make Us Strong

(Memberships Received up to February 1, 1950)

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Bill Barnard
Ola Mae Barnard
Curtis Becker
Judy Bigelow
Sue Bristow
Naydeen Brown
Patricia Brown
James Steven Cosca
Diane Chelucci
Lynn Cuttle
Dan Danielson
Maxine Dunniway
Ernest Erlbeck
Joyce Erlbeck
Stephen C. Gray
Walter Grondona, Jr.
Jerry Holm
Robert Holm
Rhoda Katz
Nelson Kennedy
Gary King

JUNIORS, RENEWALS

Billie Black
Jimmie Black
Sandy Black
Gary Barrious
Nana Baldri
Marvin Bradley
Arthur Bristow
Dorothy Jean Brown
Heber Clark Brown
James Marvin Brown
Phebe Brown
Bubbles Caton
Harry Chandler
William Charette
Jacqueline Ann Conda
Joey C. Cosca
Joyce Cosca
Loretta Cosca
Carol Cosgrief
Rosalie Cox
Bernie Cummings
Barbara Dorsey
Donald Dreyer
Leo Dreyer
Ronnie Dunniway
Cotton Feliz
Dale Fisher
Earline Fisher
Patricia Fitzgerald
Lobeth Fowler
Laverne Gabrielson
Joe Gale
Edward Gallagher
Frank Gallo
Gay George

WELCOME, NEW SENIORS!

Bob Abbey
Joseph S. Abreu
Edmund W. Bergk
Sydney I. Bergk
Truman I. Brown
Wilma Brown
Walter J. Carvey
Barbara S. Clark
Cliff Clark
John S. Clark
Florence Degorgo
Donald M. Drysdale
Agnes A. Embery
Arnold Eschmann
Calvin Erwin
Sport Fellingham
George Floyd
Irah M. Gorrie
Gloria E. Gray
Janet Hansen
Merritt Herrick
Alice Holbrook
Mae A. Jackson
C. R. Jones
Joseph Kennedy, Jr.
Martha Kennedy

Lenore King
Carolyn Lewis
Jacquelyn Lewis
Pat Lind
Ronnie Lopes
Mari-Jo Muck
Sally Ann Mack
Carol Ann Marquis
Bob McKinstry
Peggy Morrison
James J. Munson
Linda Patten
Jean Proctor
Marlene Quail
Connie Reynolds
Bill Russell
Bill Silvara
Lynn Thomas
Dixie Lee Timm
Jeanne Tvedt
Mary Ellen Wallace
Carol Wennerstrom

Celia Gray
Walleen Grondona
Mark Hamilton
Barbara Isham
Shirley Johnstad
Glen Kirkpatrick
Carolyn Krickau
Gary W. Lawrence
Donald Leslie
Diane Lombardi
Dick Lombardi
Jackie Lombardi
Lynda Landsborough
Bart Martin
David Nelson
Janet Phillips
Ronald Pimpentel
Trudy Potter
Joanne Ratto
Carol Robbiano
Shirley Roberts
Cookie Robinson
Dick Robinson
Pat Rukavina
Jo Ann Schetter
Sally Schetter
John P. Shumacker
Corinne Smith
Daisy Jo Smith
Jean Smith
Deon Stenzel
Susan Tucker
Don Wilson
Annette Wright

OLD FRIENDS RENEW FOR 1950

Mrs. Edson Adams
Ted Albro
Mrs. Charlotte Anderson
Fred E. Anderson
Louis Barrious
Barbara Baxter
Kisa Beeck
Fred Bemis
Donald Bentley
Jim Black
Tiny Black
Emmett Boger
Eula Boger
Dottie Bowers
Lefty Bowers
Arthur H. Bristow
Barbara Brown
Dorothy E. Brown
Heber James Brown
Deane Burton
Paul Busch
Dr. J. A. Campbell
Fred Cardduff
Virginia Chandler
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Cari Hansen
Emily Hansen
Irv. n Hansen
Jerry Hansen
R. Chris Hansen
Lewis Helms
A. W. Himmelman
Elsa Himmelman
I. R. Ingraca
R. M. Iy
Floyd Jacobs
Gerald Jacobs
David Clay Jones
Fred B. Jones
Katherine L. Jones
Marguerite Jones
Dorothy Kaehler
F. P. Keen
Francys Kelly
Frank H. Kelly
Evelyn Kerr
Harold D. Knudsen
John Langfield
Dr. E. G. LeDonne
Henry Leidsen
Marzelle Leidsen
Flossie Lejeal
H. G. Lejeal
Larry Lovier
Hap Magee
J. V. Manners
Ed Martin
J. L. Martin
Geneva Menicucci
Alice Merritt
J. M. Merritt
Henry Miller
Ray Morris
Mae Murray
Martin K. Murray

Ida Myers
James A. Myers
Earl Nanninga
Richard Neves
Frances Older
William Older
James Paps
Rina Paps
Bill Patten
Virginia Patten
Blanche Paul
G. S. Paul
Harry Peckham
Marianne Pendo
Jack Pfeiffer
Mrs. Jack Pfeiffer
Mrs. John L. Phillips
Janet Pray
W. C. Pray
Fred Price
Lila Ray
Mrs. George Reis
Hal Reiter
Jack Richards
Charles Rochi
Helen Rochi
Margaret Rukavina
P. A. Russell
Ted Sciacqua
Bill Senecal
Nell Senecal
Mari Shealy
Mabel Smith
Rose Springer
Tom Springer
H. W. Starr
Joe Stern
Nina Stern
Tom Tallarico
Jean Theobald
Ray Theobald
John G. Thiel
Phyllis Thiel
C. R. Tisher
Marie Tisher
George Wagner
George Walling
Kay Walling
Donzel Watson
Sylvia Watt
Kent M. Weaver
Alberta Weisgerber
Bernard Weisgerber
Ruby Welch
Judy White

IT'S A CHALLENGE, MATES!

For years, MHA has been the largest horsemen's organization in the state. Now there's a club in Southern California claiming a larger membership than ours.

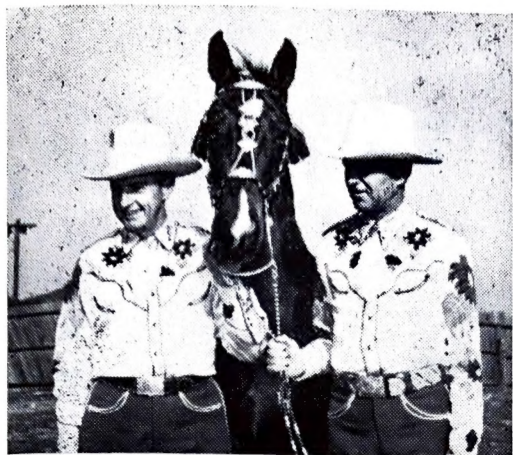
Let's look to our laurels! No group had so many entries in the State Horse Show last year. No area has greater scenic beauty or a comparable system of trails for riders.

Let's bring every horse owner, every rider, every man whose business depends upon horses into the MHA. And bring their families, too—there are lots of activities in which everybody participates!

GIVE YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP TO A JUNIOR

or mail it to **MABEL SMITH, Treasurer,**
Alameda Co. Court House, 12th & Fallon, Oakland

ADULTS, STILL ONLY \$3.00 JUNIORS, \$1.00
INCLUDE A DONATION FOR TRAILS!



STATE CHAMPS LOOK AHEAD

Floyd L. Jacobs, Captain, and Frank L. Kelly, First Lieutenant, will defend the title of the Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol as State Champion Drill Team. The unit was led to this distinction by Fred L. Bemis, whose health forced him to resign after four years as Captain. While he will be greatly missed, the Patrol has already begun drill practice for 1950. Heber James Brown and David Clay Jones have been named Second Lieutenants.

BOOTS & JEANS ELECT

Lefty Bowers was unanimously returned as Captain in the Boots & Jeans election last month. Dutch Cummings was named First Lieutenant; Charlie Barnard, Second Lieutenant; Bobbye Stewart, Custodian; Alma Leonhardt, Secretary-Treasurer. A new square dance and new costumes are planned.

Bud Vogel now owns a beautiful black stock horse, Honest John, who will add square dancing to his repertoire.

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CRESSMOUNT "SADDLE BAGS"

Thursday morning's equitation and jumping class for women includes Mrs. Volney La Barthe, Recruiting Officer and Co-ordinator; Alice Holbrook, Publicity Chairman and Mesdames A. Armer, Don Blessing, M. S. Bothwell, Selby Donlon, James Greenlee, M. K. Jordan, W. D. McCarthy, B. E. Stewart, Tom Sutton, and B. L. La Barthe. General B. G. Chynoweth is honorary member and referee.

Mrs. Chas. Lawrence, Jr. (Constance Himmelman) and son Gary, MHA members now living in Costa Mesa, Calif., spent a three weeks' vacation with grandparents Elsa and Gus Himmelman.

MISS GRAHAM'S

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NEWS OF THE STABLES**Pinto Ranch**

Pat Wurt and her sorrel horse can be seen enjoying the trails this sunny weather, as well as Charlie Hagaman with his good-looking new bay.

Vern Chappell's nice chestnut is a welcome new boarder.

Pearl Leibl and her famous palomino, Don Keeno, have moved to Sutter Creek.

Wildwood

The sunshine has brought the MHA Juniors into the ring for drill practice, and the boarders turn out 100%, these fine weekends.

Johnnie's three quarterhorse stallions are getting their workouts before the Spring racing season. He says the weather has already got Goldbrick looking for race tracks. That's the quarterhorse Johnnie ran successfully on the tracks last Summer.

Arlington Hills

The Arlington Vaqueros officers are: Dave Ellsworth, President; Doreen Thrulin, Vice-President; and Christy Russell, Secretary. Christy has a new chestnut jumping horse, and Betsy Holt a lovely half-Arab.

Leo Armstrong was recently installed as President of San Pablo Horsemen's Ass'n. Vice-President, Louis Peterson; Directors: John Emrich, Carrol Gossett, and Dr. Wm. Warthon. The Junior group is expanding, with eight members now.

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BIG PRIZES IN TWO JUNIOR CONTESTS

Something for the Members, Too!

You can get a copy of "The Horse's Prayer" for your den or tack room, just by paying your dues or making a trails donation to any MHA Junior. (Charlie Gray, Membership Chairman, was kind enough to have them printed.)

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Earl Nanninga's Saddle Shop will present a \$7.50 merchandise order to the Junior who brought in the greatest number of memberships during February. The lucky winner has not yet been announced.

Monthly contests continue through June, according to Charlie Gray, and here are the rules:

Each membership counts one point. To qualify for a prize during any month, the junior must have at least three points.

Each month there is a brand new contest, with an excellent prize.

At the end of June, the Junior having the greatest total number of memberships will receive the grand prize—a radio. Second and third prizes will also be awarded.

Scores from the first contest, which closed January 31, do not count.

All Juniors are on their own. Memberships received directly by the Treasurer, Secretary, or any other officer, director or member of MHA will not be credited to the score of any junior, unless the membership application is accompanied by a written request from the person making the application.

TRAILS DONATION CONTEST

In the excitement of the Junior contest this year, many people forgot to donate for trails when they paid their dues. So—the Juniors can win still more prizes in the new Trails Donation Contest.

Each dollar collected for trails will count one point. (For instance, a \$25 donation counts 25 points.) Three points during any month will qualify a Junior for that month. Each month the qualifying Junior who turns in the greatest amount for the Trails Fund gets a prize, and at the end of June there will be three grand prizes for the Juniors who place first, second and third.

Rules are the same as for the Membership Contest. Get going, Juniors! Get out your checkbooks, members!

"COUNTY FAIR STOMP" NEXT BIG EVENT FOR JUNIORS, SENIORS

Living up to their reputation as one of the most active groups in the MHA, the Juniors will stage a big dance on Saturday night, April 8. Proceeds will help pay drill team expenses, so the Juniors are working like beavers to get out a record crowd. The place: Norway Hall, 3829 Piedmont Avenue. The price, \$1.00 a ticket. Let's shuffle along to the County Fair Stomp, and try for one of those door prizes! Grown-ups invited.

DRILL TEAM NEWS

New blue-and-white uniforms are going to dazzle the spectators this year, as the snappy drill team moves into action. Drills are held on Saturday mornings, in the new ring at Johnnie Curry's Wildwood Stables.

Congratulations to Annette Wright on her new light chestnut mare, Princess.

Snow Trip: 39 Juniors and 9 grown-ups made the trip to Strawberry Lake on February 12. So many signed up that it was impossible to provide overnight accommodations, but the Juniors packed a whole week-end into that one day in the snow, returning home exhausted but intact.

Tip Jar: On the last day of January the Juniors opened the Tip Jar and found \$32. This makes a total of \$57 in tips donated by the Stephanis and the Skyline Kitchen. The Juniors thank them sincerely, and thank the MHA members who perhaps tipped more generously because they knew where the money was going. It was a splendid gesture that the Juniors will long remember.

SHONGEHON-SUBALTERN GYMKHANA

Basketball was the feature of the afternoon at Cressmount's first gymkhana of the year, held on February 5. Four mounted riders played on each side. Players were Vandra Rosendahl, Karen Anderson, Peggy Day and Jeffrey Hardin, against Wilda Rosendahl, Ann Burnham, Janet Scott and Bonnie Bothwell. Each team made three baskets.

Gymkhana champion was Nina Curley. Tied for reserve champion were Jeffrey Hardin, Pat Brandes and Janet Scott, with Jeffrey winner of the run-off.

Officials were: Judge, Mrs. J. A. Holbrook; announcer, Mrs. M. S. Bothwell; ribbon clerk, Susan Curley. Ribbons were made by Peggy Day, and members of both groups were responsible for the various events.

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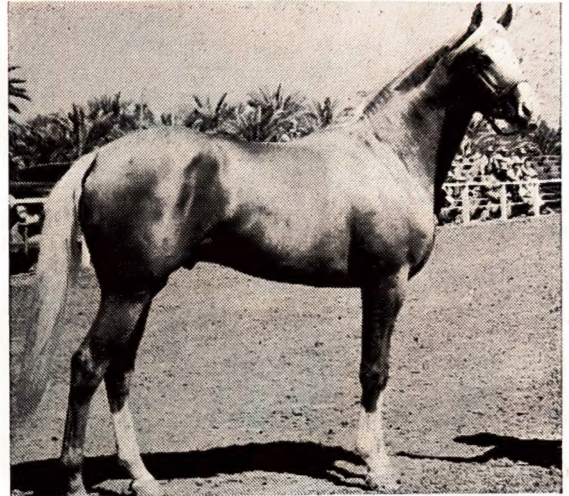


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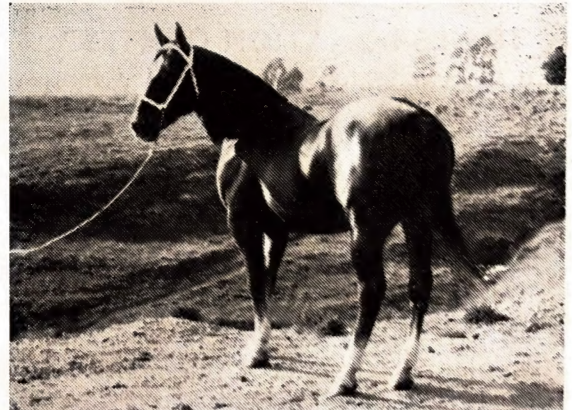


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